

# **EPA Brownfields Revitalization Assessment and Cleanup Grant Funding**

What Makes a Winning  
Proposal



# Presentation Overview

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- Types of funding available and eligibility
- Grant criteria
- What to Do?

# *Authorized Brownfield Funding*

**\$200 MILLION\*  
COMMUNITIES**

**\$50 MILLION  
STATES &  
TRIBES**

**\*25% For Petroleum**

**ASSESSMENT  
GRANTS**

**CLEANUP  
REVOLVING LOAN  
FUND GRANTS**

**DIRECT CLEANUP  
GRANTS**

**JOB-TRAINING  
GRANTS**

**BROWNFIELDS  
TARGETED  
ASSESSMENTS**

**STATE & TRIBAL  
RESPONSE  
PROGRAM GRANTS**

# State and Tribal Response Programs

The Brownfields Law authorizes \$50 million for States and Tribes

Funds can be used to:

- Establish or enhance response programs (*any response programs including RCRA, UST, VCPs*)
- Capitalize revolving loan funds
- Develop environmental insurance mechanisms
- Conduct targeted brownfield assessment & site-specific activities
- Develop & monitor institutional controls

# The Competitive Grant Program

*These grants are very competitive. Be prepared to put time and effort into constructing a winning proposal.*



# Who Can Apply for Grant Funds:

*Funding for assessment and cleanup of sites is awarded through an annual, national competition.*

- State, Tribal and local governments
- Quasi-government entities (e.g., regional councils, redevelopment authorities, economic development agencies)
- Non-profits for direct cleanup grants only

# What kind of funding is available?

- Assessment grants – community wide or site specific for inventories, site assessment and remediation planning
- Capitalization grant to establish a revolving loan and subgrant fund (RLF) to pay for cleanup – 20% cost share required
- Site specific Cleanup grants – 20% cost share required
- Cleanup grants and RLF subgrants – **the applicant MUST OWN the site.**

# Threshold Criteria

- Applicant Eligibility
- Community Notification
- State or Tribal Letter
- Site Eligibility
- Cleanup Authority (RLF&Cleanup only)
- Cost Share (RLF&Cleanup only)
- Eligibility for other funding
- Loan Management Authority (RLF)



# Applicant Eligibility

## The applicant –

- Must be one of the entities on the eligible list for your grant type
- Must not be a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) under CERCLA 107
- For petroleum sites – must not have caused or contributed to the contamination at the site and be a viable party.
- Must not be debarred, suspended for applying for federal grant monies

# Community Notification

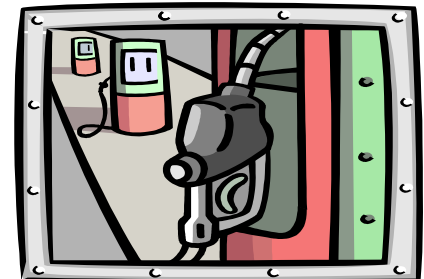
- Provide evidence of how the community has been involved in the preparation of the grant
- Meeting public notices
- Web-site notification where practical

# State or Tribal Letter

- Notify state response program people of application and request letter
- Notify tribal council for the need for a letter

# Site Eligibility

- For assessment, communities can apply on behalf of sites.
- For cleanup grants/subgrants, property ownership must be in the hands of a public or non-profit entity. Owners must apply directly for funds.
- Private property owners cannot apply directly for grant funds.
- Private property owners can apply for loans from an RLF for cleanup.
- Hazardous sites - applicant must not be liable for contamination on the property under CERCLA.
- Petroleum sites –
  - must be relatively low risk,
  - Have no viable responsible party
  - Sites with RCRA 9003(h) corrective action order are not eligible



# Clean Up Authority & Oversight (RLF & Cleanup Only)

- Legal Authority to access & secure the site.
- Provide your technical expertise on overseeing the cleanup (e.g. in-house, consultant) & participation in State Voluntary Cleanup Programs.

# Cost Share (RLF & Cleanup Only)

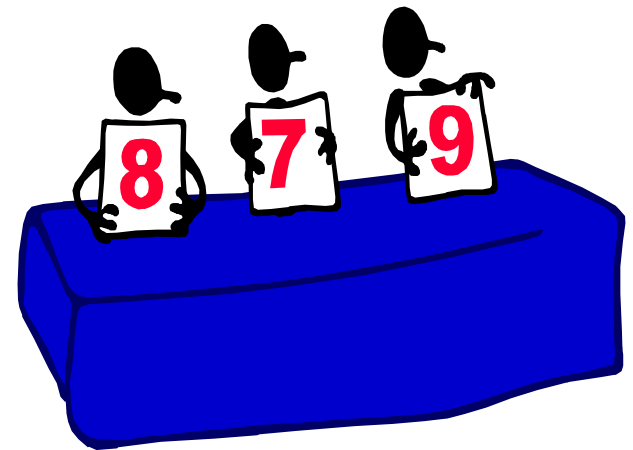
- Document your 20% cost share in the project budget.
- Ensure 20% cost share is for eligible & allowable activities.
- If requesting a waiver, clearly articulate the basis of your request citing the extenuating circumstances involved (e.g. bankruptcy, indicators of low economic, values, etc.....)

# Loan Management Authority

- Provide opinion from your legal counsel
  - Legal authority must include
    - Ability to hold funds
    - Make loans
    - Enter into loan agreements
    - And collect loans

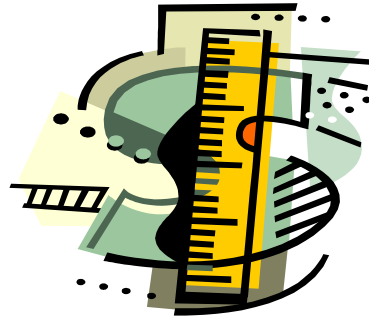
# Ranking Criteria

- Budget
- Community Need
- Sustainable Reuse
- Creation/Preservation of Greenspace
- Reuse of Infrastructure
- Community Involvement
- Human Health and Environment
- Leveraged Resources
- Grant Management
- Marketing Plan
- Business Plan





# Budget



- Separate budgets for hazardous waste and petroleum
- Provide realistic detailed budget by major task area
- Explain your major costs
- Ensure cost are eligible & allowable
- Emphasis placed on funds for direct environmental work vs. management & planning

# Community Need

- Communities with a clear need are more competitive
- High unemployment rates, high poverty rates, loss of jobs/population, minority or other sensitive populations. Include demographic statistics & relate these to the area targeted by the grant & how the grant will address these needs.
- Present the environmental, economic, social and health impacts of brownfields on the community
- Be sure to include Environmental Justice concerns & issues
- *Focus on the environmental and health impacts of your project.*



# Sustainable Reuse

- Sustainability - long term benefits. Provide data on jobs created, economic benefit & increases to tax base & how these relate to community affected by brownfields.
- Consider use of green buildings for project or historical preservation of buildings.
- Address prevention of new brownfields (e.g. local ordinances, plan, zoning).

# Creation/Preservation of Greenspace

- Greenspace - parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens, habitat restoration, open space
- Either creation or preservation
- Tell us who will use the site and how this fits into the overall community need especially any impacted community members.
- Include information to demonstrate benefits of greenspace preservation (e.g. reduced pollution, etc...)



# Reuse of Infrastructure

- Provide details for all infrastructure in place and needed for redevelopment to occur.
- Incorporate creative or innovative reuse of infrastructure or reduced consumption of natural resources. Incorporate low impact design.
- Discuss how existing or new infrastructure will promote the overall redevelopment of the project area.

# Community Involvement

- Evidence of community involvement and support. Discuss how the community *Has Been and Will Be* involved. Provide documentation – names and phone numbers. Describe how groups or individuals are involved and their role in the project.
- Community must be involved in the development of the grant proposal/application & have an opportunity for public comment.
- Did the community help select and prioritize the sites?
- Describe how the community will be included in both cleanup decisions & reuse planning.



# Human Health & Environment

- Provide sensitive population statistics specific to the area (children, elderly, pregnant women) & how these populations are directly impacted by the brownfield contamination.
- Explain suspected or known exposure pathway of concern.
- Describe contaminants of concern and impact both to health and/or natural resources.
- Include information on any health studies performed & how/if they support the human health of environment impacts.
- Describe how you have been and will continue to coordinate with local and state environmental and public health agencies on site specific projects.



# Leveraged Resources

- Partnerships - leveraged resources, support, or assistance from stakeholders
- Technical, financial or regulatory support or funding.
- Local, state, federal, private, volunteer efforts. **The more diversity among partners the better, especially local commitments.**
- Realistic goals for the project
- Letters of support may be included.
- ***Talk to your State's environmental authority.*** **A letter acknowledging the grant proposal is mandatory.**



# Grant Management

- Ability to manage federal grants
- Information regarding compliance with
  - Quarterly reports
  - Brownfields reporting measures
  - Annual financial status reporting

## Marketing Plan (RLF only)

- Describe the market niche for your loan program. Include information on likely loan applicants & their need for this funding (i.e., is there much need for these funds)
- Plan for distributing funds between loans & sub grants & rationale/considerations that will be used to award sub grants

# Business Plan (RLF only)

- Include specific information on how your loan program will be structured (e.g., loan amounts, interest rates, repayment time frames)
- How will you get the word out about the program
- Be sure to make a case for how this money is needed

# Policy and Other Special Considerations

- Urban & non-urban distribution of funds.
- Compliance with statutory requirements on petroleum funding.
- Promoting the long term availability of RLF grants
- Federal Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Community, or renewal community designations
- Population
- Tribal
- Commitment to green buildings & energy conservation (e.g. Energy Star, etc...)

# FAILURE INDICATORS

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**WHY DIDN'T WE GET THE MONEY?  
DUH.....**

# What happened??

- Hastily prepared
- Budget too high or confusing
- No partnerships
- Missed deadline
- Rambling
- No contact names
- No phone numbers
- Not addressing criteria
- No community notification or input in proposal
- No measures of success
- No planned leveraging
- Inappropriate use of funds
- Interior asbestos, lead-based abatement only
- Cleanup- Assessment not completed

# REMEMBER

- Cleanup & sub-grantees must own site
- Must complete assessment to apply for cleanup
- Cannot be liable under CERCLA 107
- 20% cost share for RLF & cleanup
- 15 single-sided page limit (12 point font), no binders

# To Do Now

- Public Notification to get input on grant proposals
- Put notice in paper
- Call Health Department - studies/exposures?
- Get State letter
- Consult w/ State on petroleum sites to get low risk determination.
- Contact other partners



## In Conclusion: Make Contacts Early

- Call your EPA Regional Brownfields staff to discuss eligibility
- Contact Your State/Tribal Environmental Agency for Assistance & State Letter
- Involve the community early in the process of developing your project and the funding proposal.
- **The new FY-04 Proposal Guidelines are on EPA's website: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields). Proposals are due by December 04, 2003.**

*If at first you don't succeed, try, try again (next year)!*

# Region 7's Brownfields Program

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- Visit our webpage:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region07/> to learn more about  
region07/ to learn more about

# Thank You



Email me! [crifasi.vincenzo@epa.gov](mailto:crifasi.vincenzo@epa.gov)